

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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R 120500 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6543

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 967

AIDAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: POSTWAR AID TO INDOCHINA

REF: A) STATE 66479; B) WELLINGTON 203; C) WELLINGTON 465
D) WELLINGTON 488

1. BASED ON PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH GNZ OFFICIALS, EMBASSY BELIEVES GNZ MIGHT WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING OF PROSPECTIVE AID DONORS TO INDOCHINA AREA (REF A).

2. GNZ HAS PLEDGED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TEN MILLION NZ DOLLARS IN AID OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF INDOCHINA (REF B). PM KIRK, IN ANNOUNCING THIS, NOTED GNZ WOULD HOPE TO GIVE SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THIS AID THROUGH UNITED NATIONS.

3. GNZ AMBASSADOR TON VN, SIR LEONARD THORNTON, HAS NOTED GNZ AID PLANS FOR THIS AREA WOULD INCLUDE AID FOR NVN (REF C). THORNTON NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GNZ WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS IN GIVING AID TO NVN WITHOUT SOME CONTROL OVER HOW AID IS USED. GNZ, HE STATED, COULD NOT SIMPLY GIVE MONEY OR SUPPLIES TO NVN AND ACCEPT NVN ASSURANCES ON HOW THIS AID WAS ACTUALLY UTILIZED. HE GAVE THIS AS BASIS FOR GNZ EVENTUALLY ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH NVN, BUT STRESSED THIS WAS LONG WAY IN FUTURE.

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4. PM KIRK, IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE (REF D),
INDICATED GNZ WOULD CONSIDER AID FOR NVN QUOTE WHEN FEASIBLE
UNQUOTE, POSSIBLY MEANING WHEN GNZ ESTABLISHES OFFICIAL
CONTACT WITH NVN.

5. RECENT DISCUSSION WITH NZ RED CROSS OFFICIALS
REVEALED THAT RED CROSS HAS ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR USE
IN INDOCHINA BUT IS UNCERTAIN HOW IT CAN BE USED. NZ
RED CROSS IS SENDING TEAM TO SVN TO REESTABLISH ITS
WELFARE TEAM, AND IS CONTEMPLATING A SIMILAR EFFORT IN
NVN, BUT HAS MADE NO MOVES TO SEE IF THIS IS POSSIBLE.
NZ RED CROSS OFFICIAL NOTED DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD
ARISE FROM SUCH AN EFFORT, ESPECIALLY POSSIBLE NVN
UNWILLINGNESS TO ALLOW SUCH A TEAM FULL FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT.

6. COMMENT. PROBLEM FOR GNZ IS HOW TO BEST GIVE AID
TO VIETNAM. GNZ MIGHT BE WILLING GIVE AID TO SVN ONLY IF
NVN MADE CONDITIONS TOO DIFFICULT. BUT GNZ WOULD NEED
BE ABLE CONVINCE ITS OWN LEFT WING THAT NVN BEING
INTRANSIGENT. GNZ' S BEST ANSWER MIGHT BE TO NOTE NVN
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT MULTI- LATERAL AID, SUCH AS THROUGH UN
AGENCIES OR RED CROSS, OR UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT
BILATERAL AID, WHICH WOULD ENTAIL GNZ CONTROL OR INSPECTION
OVER AID' S USE. WHILE GNZ MIGHT PREFER BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS,
IT RECOGNIZES MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS IN VIETNAM WHICH MAKE
SUCH PROGRAMS DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO ESTABLISH.
EMBASSY THEREFORE, FEELS GNZ WOULD WELCOME INVITATION TO
PARTICIPATE IN GVN AID CONFERENCE AS BEST ALTERNATIVE
METHOD OF USING GNZ AID FUNDS.
WOOD

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